

REMARKS

In the application, claims 15-27 are pending. In the Office Action mailed on January 5, 2010, claims 16-20, 24, and 25 are indicated as allowable. Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 3,989,311 ("Debrey") in view EP 0 845 237 ("Inamura"). Claims 15, 21-23, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inamura in view of Debrey. Claims 22 and 23 were further indicated as obvious optimizations of Inamura.

The claims have now been amended. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 15 and 27 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 16, which has now been cancelled. Allowable claim 24, which was previously dependent on claim 15, has been rewritten in independent form including all intervening claim limitations, and to clarify the "outside" feature, as described in paragraph [0030] of the specification.

Accordingly, each of claims 15, 24, and 27, as amended, along with their respective dependent claims are believed to be patentable over Inamura and/or Debrey, considered alone or in combination.

Application No. 10/598,007
Amendment dated May 4, 2010
Reply to Office Action of January 5, 2010

Docket No.: 810222

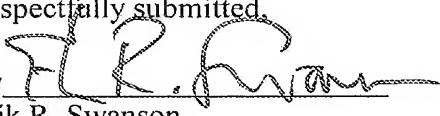
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any unpaid fees deemed required in connection with this submission, including any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 12-1216.

Dated: May 4, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Erik R. Swanson

Registration No.: 40,833
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6731
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicants